

Message Text

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72

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ARA-16 ISO-00 NIC-01 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-11

INR-10 LAB-06 NSAE-00 RSC-01 SIL-01 DODE-00 PM-07

H-03 L-03 NSC-07 PA-04 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20 USIA-15

DRC-01 /136 W

----- 050296

R 061655Z MAY 74

FM AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8940

INFO USMISSION NATO

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS UNN

AMCONSUL FRANKFURT

AMEMBASSY HELSINKI

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK

AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

UNCLAS COPENHAGEN 1245

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAG: PINT, ELAB, ASEC, DA

SUBJ: MAY DAY IN DENMARK

SUMMARY: MAY DAY DEMONSTRATIONS THIS YEAR WERE MARKED BY CURRENT POLITICAL STRUGGLE WITHIN DANISH LABOR MOVEMENT, WITH COMMUNIST PARTY DRAWING LARGEST CROWD IN MANY YEARS. ANTI-US ISSUES WERE RELEGATED TO MAIST AND OTHER CAUSE-ORIENTED GROUPS WHICH COMBINED TO MOUNT GOOD-SIZED DEMONSTRATION AGAINST CHILEAN JUNTA IN FRONT OF EMBASSY.

END SUMMARY:

1. MAY DAY FESTIVITIES IN DENMARK THIS YEAR WERE MARKED BY CURRENT HOSTILITY BETWEEN SOCIAL DEMOCRATS (SDP) PEOPLES SOCIALISTS (SF),
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AND COMMUNISTS (DKP) WITHIN THE LABOR MOVEMENT. IN CONTRAST TO JOINT

OBSERVANCE CEREMONIES SOMETIMES HELD PREVIOUSLY, EACH OF THE ABOVE THREE "LABOR" PARTIES MOUNTED ITS OWN SEPARATE SHOW IN COPENHAGEN AND IN MOST PROVINCIAL CITIES.

2. IN COPENHAGEN, THE VICTOR'S LAURELS IN THE POPULARITY COMPETITION FELL CLEARLY TO THE COMMUNIST PARTY, WHICH MANAGED TO ASSEMBLE 10-15 THOUSAND FOR ITS DEMONSTRATION IN THE COMMONS PARK. IN CONTRAST, SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC GATHERING IN CITY HALL SQUARE DID NOT EXCEED FOUR THOUSAND, WHILE SOCIALIST PEOPLES PARTY DREW ONLY 500 TO MEETING IN FREDERIKSBERG. NUMERICAL ADVANTAGE WAS ONLY PART OF COMMUNIST SUCCESS; MORE SIGNIFICANT WAS FACT THAT VAST MAJORITY OF ITS CROWD CONSISTED OF YOUTH--ANTI-ESTABLISHMENT STUDENTS AND GROWN-UP FLOWER CHILDREN GATHERED IN FAMILY AND COMMUNE GROUPS FOR A SOCIAL EVENT AS WELL AS A POLITICAL DEMONSTRATION. ONLY SPRINKLING OF WORKING CLASS ADULTS WAS IN EVIDENCE. IN SUM, DEMONSTRATION SEEMED TO BE PROOF THAT YOUTH SUPPORT WAS RESPONSIBLE, AS DKP CLAIMS, FOR ITS SUCCESS IN RECENT PARLIAMENTARY AND COMMUNAL ELECTIONS. ON OTHER HAND, DKP CROWD BORE LITTLE RESEMBLANCE TO MILITANT, ECONOMICALLY SUPPRESSED, SHOULDER-TO-SHOULDER WORKING CLASS MASS MOVEMENT IDEALIZED IN SOCIALIST THEORY. AMIDST THE BABY-BUGGIES, TAG-PLAYIN CHILDREN AND NOISEY BEER VENDORS, ONLY A SMALL PORTION OF THE ASSEMBLAGE APPEARED TONOTICE--LET ALONE CARE-- THAT CHAIRMAN KNUD JESPERSEN WAS URGING UNITY WITHIN THE LABOR MOVEMENT TO RESIST THE POWER OF MONOPOLY CAPITALISM.

3. THE FORLORN GROUP OF SF PARTY LOYALISTS AT FREDERISKBERG HEARD PARTY CHAIRMAN--DESIGNATE GERT PETERSEN SOUND THE SAME THEME.. THE NECESSITY OF ALL THREE LABOR PARTIES TO COOPERATE TO ACHIEVE SOCIALIST GOALS. THIS POSITION IS NOW AGREED TACTICS BY BOTH THE SF AND DKP IN THEIR COMMON DEFENSE AGAINST THE SOCIAL DEMOCRATS POLITICAL OFFENSIVE WITHIN THE LABOR MOVEMENT. BUT THE LIMITED ATTENDANCE WAS SYMBOLIC OF FACT THAT SF PARTY, LACKING ANY REAL BASE WITHIN THE LABOR MOVEMENT, IS ALSO LOSING ITS HOLD AMONG THE YOUNG RADICALS.

4. IN THEIR VARIOUS PARADES AND SPEECHES THROUGHOUT THE COUNTRY, THE SOCIAL DEMOCRATS IGNORED THE QUESTION OF CLASS CONFLICT IN FAVOR OF THE HIGHER GROUND OF POLITICAL COMPROMISE WITH THE GOVT. THE RAPIDLY DETERIORATING BALANCE OF PAYMENTS POSITION AND THE SPIRALING INFLATION IS FORCING A BASIC POLICY CHOICE THIS SUMMER OR EARLY FALL, AND THE SOCIAL DEMOCRATS EXPLOITED THE MAY FIRST

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OPPORTUNITY TO BROADCAST THEIR NEGOTIATING POSITION VIS-A-VIS THE MODERATE LIBERAL GOVT. LO CHAIRMAN THOMAS NIELSEN, WHO SPOKE AT SONDERBORG, IN COMPANY WITH ICFTU GENERAL SECRETARY OTTO KERSTEN, STATED THAT THE SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC LABOR MOVEMENT WAS READY TO DISCUSS AN INCOMES POLICY PACKAGE ON CONDITION THAT: A SINGLE, LOW TAX RATE BE SET FOR ALL INCOMES UNDER 12,000 DOLLARS (75 THOUSAND KRONER), THAT THE GOVT'S SUGGESTED INCREASE OF VAT TAX FROM 15 TO 20 PERCENT BE WITHDRAWN, AND THAT THE PACKAGE AFFECT ALL

SOCIAL GROUPS EQUALLY. METAL WORKERS UNION CHAIRMAN PAULUS ANDERSEN, MAIN SPEAKER AT THE CITY HALL SQUARE IN COPENHAGEN, ADDED ANOTHER CONDITION- THAT PRELIMINARY STEPS TOWARD THE ECONOMIC DEMOCRACY PROPOSAL OF THE SDP AND LO BE INCORPORATED IN THE INCOMES POLICY PACKAGE. BOTH SPEAKERS REFERRED TO THE POSSIBILITY, IF THESE CONDITIONS ARE NOT MET, OF ELECTIONS FALL PRIOR TO THE COMMENCEMENT OF NATIONWIDE WAGE NEGOTIATIONS IN OCTOBER.

5. INTERNATIONAL ISSUES WERE LARGELY IGNORED BY THE THREE MAIN "LABOR" PARTIES IN THEIR PREOCCUPATION WITH THE DOMESTIC STRUGGLE, ALTHOUGH EVENTS IN PORTUGAL WERE HAILED BY SEVERAL SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC SPEAKERS. EXPLOITATION OF OTHER TRADITIONAL THIRD-WORLD AND FOREIGN POLICY ISSUES, CONSEQUENTLY, WAS LEFT TO THE DIVERSE MAOIST AND LEFT SOCIALIST (VS) FRACTIONS, WHICH COMBINED WITH VARIOUS CAUSE-ORIENTED GROUPS TO MOUNT A DEMONSTRATION IN FRONT OF THE EMBASSY. BACKED BY THE VS PARTY, THE REVOLUTIONARY STUDENTS ASSOCIATION (RSF), THE COMMUNIST LEAGUE MARXIST-LENINIST (KFML) KIM- AN ASSOCIATION TO REHABILITATE FORMER CONVICTS, THE PACIFIST NEVER MORE WAR SOCIETY AND THE CHILE COMMITTEE, THE DEMONSTRATION DREW A SURPRISING TWO THOUSAND PARTICIPANTS--ONE OF THE LARGEST IN THE PAST TWO YEARS. DEMONSTRATION FOCUSED PRIMARILY ON ALLEGED US INVOLVEMENT IN ALLENDE'S DEMISE, BUT ANTI-NATO SIGNS WERE ALSO FEATURED. POLICE PROTECTION WAS ADEQUATE AND DEMONSTRATION ENDED WITHOUT INCIDENT.

6. COMMENT: DANISH COMMUNIST PARTY IS CONTINUING TO MAKE INROADS AMONG INTELLECTUAL AND RADICAL YOUTH GROUPS PREVIOUSLY THE POLITICAL DOMAIN OF THE SOCIALIST PEOPLE'S PARTY. GALLUP POLL JUST PUBLISHED SHOWS DKP SUPPORT AT 5.6 PERCENT OF ELECTORATE, COMPARED TO 5.1 FOR SF. CONSOLIDATION OF THESE GROUPS AROUND DKP SUGGESTS POSSIBILITY THAT SF MAY BE THE FIRST VICTIM OF THE CURRENT STRUGGLE WITHIN THE DANISH LEFT.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PUBLIC DEMONSTRATIONS, ANTIAMERICAN, MAY DAY, POLITICAL SITUATION, PUBLIC ATTITUDES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 06 MAY 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974COPENH01245
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740109-0437
From: COPENHAGEN
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740572/aaaacmrj.tel
Line Count: 146
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: cunninfx
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 29 OCT 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <29 OCT 2002 by shawdg>; APPROVED <03 JAN 2003 by cunninfx>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: MAY DAY IN DENMARK SUMMARY: MAY DAY DEMONSTRATIONS THIS YEAR WERE MARKED BY CURRENT
TAGS: PFOR, DA
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005